

City of Somerville
Board of Health Meeting
January 25, 2007

Present: Brian Green, M.D., Chairman
Babette Mello, Board Member
Noreen Burke, Health Director
Kathy Henkle, Administrative Assistant
Paula Machado, Prospective BOH Member

Absent: Maria Parra, Board Member

Meeting Call to Order:

Ms. Mello made a motion to call the meeting to order at 5:15pm
Dr. Green seconded it.

Accept Minutes:

Ms. Mello made a motion to approve the December 2006 minutes.
Dr. Green seconded it.

Accept Director's Report:

Ms. Mello made a motion to approve the Director's Report.
Dr. Green seconded it.

Introductions: Ms. Burke invited two (2) prospective board members to the January meeting so they could observe and get a sense of what the board does. Only one showed up, Paula Machado. The board members introduced themselves to Ms. Machado. First there was Dr Green who is a Primary Physician with the city for about 8 years and has been on the board about a year; Ms. Mello has been on the board about 3 years and is a nurse and is involved in the City's Scap Program; Ms. Henkle is the secretary to the board and she has been with the city for 20 years. Ms. Machado introduced herself to the board. Ms. Machado is currently enrolled in Northeastern in the nursing program. Ms. Burke has been the Health Director for 2 years under the Curtatone administration. Ms. Burke emigrated from Ireland in 1989 and has been in the Boston area now for 17 years.

Director's Report:

Rodent Control: The new trash ordinance has been implemented and inspectors are issuing warning tickets to residents to make them aware of the new changes. All trash must now be in barrels with lids prior to their pick-up day.

Shape Up Somerville Program: The new program Fitness Buddies has been launched and 80 people showed up to join. The first Fitness Buddies workshop was held January 23, 2007 at the Somerville High School Library. A physical education consultant was there to show the group how to use stretch bands, and how to incorporate new exercises into daily routines.

The program is based on the 5-2-1 approaches, which stands for 5 fruits and vegetables a day, no more than 2 hours of TV, and 1 hour of exercise every day

SCAP: Somerville Cares About Prevention held their Annual Meeting at City Hall Chambers on January 24, 2007. It was a huge success.

Tufts Street: Ms. Burke has attended meetings regarding 50 Tufts Street, which is a contaminated site in East Somerville. Environmental Specialists have been hired by the city to clean up the site.

Personnel: Ms. Burke met with the Mayor regarding the Director's performance evaluation and the pay for the Director position is now at 71K as a result of the wage study

Public Health Nursing: 15 flu shot clinics were held in November and 1200 immunizations were given.

Trauma Response Network: Leni Gross-Young resigned from this position and Ms. Burke is working with the Trauma Leadership team to reorganize the position. One consideration is to combine it with the Opiate Prevention Organizer and create a part-time grant-funded position with benefits; also being considered is hiring a trauma clinician consultant role that would be on-call for the city during traumatic emergencies.

Assistant Director Hiring Process: The first round of interviews were conducted on January 19, 2007. One candidate out of 6 will probably be called back for a second interview.

Emergency Preparedness: The Health Dept received a grant for 16K and is looking at graduate students and consultants to help Ms. Quaratiello and Ms. Burke with emergency preparedness.

Public Health Nurse Position: The Health Department is moving ahead with the conversion of a school nurse position to a public health nurse position. Cross training of school nurses will also continue as a best practice to increase capacity for emergency preparedness.

Board of Health Orientation: Booklets were given out to the board members and any prospective board members that attended the meeting. Ms. Burke and Dr. Green gave an overview of the duties of local boards of health in Massachusetts along with a slide presentation created by Cheryl Sbarra who is a member of the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards. Questions and answers followed after the presentation among board members and prospective board member.

Adjourn Meeting:

Ms. Mello made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 6:15pm.

Dr. Green seconded it.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2007 @ 5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Kathy Henkle
Administrative Assistant
Health Department

